

# PIOCHE WEEKLY RECORD.

PIOCHE, LINCOLN CO. NEVADA.

## ALONG THE COAST.

Interesting Occurrences From all Over the Coast.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK CONDENSED.

A Number of Miscellaneous Jottings Briefly and Curiously Told in This Column.

John Morgan has been awarded \$4000 damages by a jury in Judge Hunt's court at San Francisco. He had sued the Market-Street Railway Company and Harris & Jones' lumber wagons.

Nevada will keep her gates barred against cattle that seek admission to her ranges from California. This was emphatically decided upon at a meeting of cattle owners and cattle dealers held in Carson recently.

General Clinch and Judge Bridgford of San Francisco have leased 8000 acres of tule land just above Knight's Landing, on the Sutter side of the river. It will be used for grazing sheep. The water is going off and the pasture promises to be fine.

At San Francisco Ella E. Lamont has sued the Southern Pacific Company to recover \$2000 damages for personal injuries received in a collision between two trains. The collision occurred near Marysville on August 11, 1897. Plaintiff was a passenger on one of the trains.

Joseph Brendell and Charles Giesel of San Luis Obispo, who were indicted for moonshining by the Federal grand jury and gave bail to the United States Commissioner to appear in the Circuit Court at Los Angeles, failed to appear, and their bail was declared forfeited. It is believed they have left the country.

The scarcity of grain and the high price at which it is held has compelled the mills of Stockton to seek for a supply elsewhere, and the other day a deal of 5000 tons of Oregon grain was closed. The grain will be shipped here by steamer and river boat via San Francisco, and the amount will keep the mills busy for many weeks.

The Nevada militia is fully equipped from the State arsenal and ready to move on short notice in case of emergency. An infantry company has been organized at Elko and equipments shipped. A private cavalry troop is to be organized in Carson City. Governor Sadler personally volunteered to supply the horses for the troop.

The Oakland Gas Company made the announcement the other night that after May 1 it would reduce the price of illuminating gas from \$1.75 per 1000 cubic feet to \$1.50. Where used for fuel the cut will be from \$1.60 to \$1.35 per 1000 feet. This is not in competition of the proposed Alameda Gas Company, but is in accord with the policy of the company as outlined before the announcement of its proposed incorporation.

To aid in carrying out the general plan for the improvement of the ferry service between Oakland and San Francisco double tracks are being extended toward the terminals at both local lines. A track has been laid from Twelfth avenue easterly, giving a double line on the Seventh-street local as far as Twenty-third avenue, and ending the use of sidings for passing trains. A similar improvement is being made in Berkeley.

A surprise was caused at Tacoma by Mayor Fawcett filing a divorce suit against his wife. They were married fifteen years ago and have four children. He alleges Mrs. Fawcett has neglected her marital duties by inflicting personal indignities upon him, rendering his life burdensome. The personal indignities, he says, include absconding herself from home and neglecting to care for their children, and in joining personal and political enemies of plaintiff in their efforts to malign him.

The strong probability of short hay and grain crops has induced some of the farmers and stock dealers of Yolo county to try the experiment of shipping corn from Nebraska, Kansas and Maine. Several shipments have already been received and others will follow. The freight charges are rather high, but if a number of purchasers combine and order a train load at one time a reduction of \$30 or \$40 a car can probably be obtained. Stock hogs are selling very cheap, and speculators are buying them with the expectation of fattening them on corn.

Late advice from Skagway says that Major Welch, the Canadian administrator of the Yukon, has issued an order reducing the amount of supplies to be carried into the interior by prospectors from 1000 to 600 pounds. The order is joyfully received by the miners who wish to go in light but who have been prevented by the regulation requiring them to carry half a ton of supplies. It is stated that when the river opens all supply restrictions will be removed, and any one can enter British territory without carrying a single pound if he desires.

In the United States Circuit Court at Los Angeles Judge Ross rendered a decision granting a clear title to lands of the Riverside Land and Water Company which were embraced in the overlapping grant to the Southern Pacific Company. The Court had decided against the Southern Pacific Company, from which the Riverside Company purchased its land, but the law prescribed that all bona fide owners of lands purchased from the company prior to that decision might apply to a Federal Court for a ratification of title.

From long experience ship captains have found that the water of the Columbia is the best that can be secured to fill their fresh-water tanks, says the Astoria Budget. Nearly every deep-water vessel takes on water as she comes down the river. The favorite place is below Walker's island, where it is always found per-

fectly pure. A vessel recently returned from the old country with one of her tanks filled with water that had been taken from this place. It had been more than a year, but the water was still pure and in excellent condition. The reason given for this is that about nine-tenths of it is melted snow.

Things are quiet at Dawson, as things go in that city of gold and excitement. Flour can be purchased at reasonable figures in limited quantities, and the coal-wood pile of gold continues to grow longer, broader and higher. This is in substance the pith of the news brought by George A. Robinson of Chehalis, Wash. He left Dawson March 1 with a little grub and as few clothes as the conditions would allow. He and no trouble in reaching salt water, and will now enjoy himself for the remainder of his life. He is one of the combination of miners which sold fourteen claims on Bonanza and El Dorado creeks to the Drexler-Morgan syndicate for \$550,000. He says there is enough gold in the dump of the best claim of the fourteen to pay the purchase price. When asked to estimate the amount of the spring clean-up, he said that, without doubt, the Klondike would yield \$40,000,000 this year. He reiterates what others have said, that the people as yet have no idea of the golden mass that will come down from St. Michael this summer.

### CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

The Senate Committee on Appropriations has completed consideration of the naval appropriation bill, and Senator Hale afterward reported it to the Senate. The amendments recommended by the committee increase the aggregate appropriation made by the bill as it passed the House to the extent of \$3,268,500, making the total \$46,277,558.

The senate has confirmed these nominations: C. T. Tyler, receiver of public moneys, at Seattle; W. R. Dunbar, register of the land office at Vancouver, Wash.; Lieutenant-Commander E. H. Gheen to be commander; Pay Inspector George A. Lyon to be pay director; also some promotions in the army and navy. The senate rejected Harvey N. McGrew of Salt Lake to be register of the land office at Salt Lake.

Hills providing for pensions for the following Californians were introduced by Senator White: Sarah A. Gady, W. P. Jangar, Mrs. Jennie Woods, Nicholas Zeigler. White also introduced petitions of the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco against ticket scalping, favoring reform in the civil service, asking the removal of Arch and Shag rocks, and for the recognition of treaties to permit American wrecking companies to operate in Canadian waters.

The members of the Ways and Means Committee have agreed upon a plan of raising revenue in case of need to carry on a war with Spain. The plan will raise more than \$100,000,000 additional revenue annually and be thus distributed: An additional tax on beer of \$1 per barrel, estimated to yield \$30,000,000; a bank stamp tax on the lines of the law of 1896, estimated to yield \$30,000,000; a duty of 3 cents per pound on coffee and 10 cents per pound on tea, and a like amount of internal tax on stocks of coffee and tea on hand in the United States, estimated to yield \$28,000,000; additional tax on tobacco, estimated to yield \$18,000,000.

The following bills were passed by the House to authorize the secretary of the Interior to rent or lease sites of forest reservations for hotels or sanitariums; for the preservation and protection of public records; to settle the accounts of the State of Arkansas and the United States as to school lands there; to regulate the jurisdiction of the United States courts; to confer jurisdiction upon United States Circuit Courts over suits in equity for the partition of land where the United States is a tenant in common; authorizing suits against an officer of the United States to be continued against his successors in office; for the prosecution of persons making false affidavits in pension cases, and several other unimportant measures.

Concerning Hen's Nests. It is a wonder to us often how it is that hens will consent to deposit their eggs in such filthy nests as are often seen among the class who do not keep fancy fowls. They may have been "brought up to it" and this may account for their apparent want of refinement; but the only excuse the owner of the birds can have is laziness. Filthy nests engender disease or sickness and the owner then these two causes alone lead far more than he saves in time by not attending to them properly.

The nests for laying hens should be overhauled and renewed two or three times during the season, the boxes being whitewashed thoroughly as often as is necessary, and fresh material being abundantly supplied. The nests for setting hens should be renewed every time a fresh batch of eggs is set. This means you need have but little fear of lice, the great pest of the poultry-breeder.

While fine hay, or fine, well-broken straw makes good nests, a very good nest can be made with shavings from wood. Select only the thinnest and softest, and make the nest well with them. They can be lightly sprinkled with diluted carbolic acid, to keep away lice, and, being very porous, will retain the smell and effect of the acid much longer than any other material.

The Difference. The pupils in a school were asked to give in writing the difference between a biped and a quadruped. One boy gave the following: "A biped has two legs, and a quadruped has four legs; therefore the difference between a biped and a quadruped is two legs."—Christian Work.

A Scotch Term. In Scotland the last day of the year, or New Year's eve, is called Hogmanay.—Atlanta Constitution.

One day last week fire almost totally destroyed the immense plant of the Pennsylvania Plate Glass Company. The company estimates its loss at \$700,000, with insurance of about \$400,000.

# TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Condensed Telegraphic Reports of Late Events.

### BRIEF SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

Snippets of News For Easy Digestion—All Parts of the Country Represented—Interesting Items.

Charles Patterson, owner of Oranema, says there is no truth in the report that he had sold his racer, Oranema. It had been reported from Hopkinton, Ky., that W. P. Norton, the owner of the Wawona stock farm had purchased the racer for \$20,000.

The Postoffice Department has awarded to P. C. Richardson of Seattle, Wash., the contract for carrying mail between St. Michael and Weare, Alaska, a distance of 900 miles. The contract, which was let for \$228,000 per annum, is for a period of four years, from July 1, 1898.

The 30 cotton cloth mills of New Bedford, Mass., which have been closed since January 17, when the 9000 operatives struck as a result of 10 per cent reduction in wages, were opened the other day to give strikers an opportunity to return. All the corporations started their machinery, but in many of the mills it is said barely a quarter of the working force went in.

Among the list of candidates recommended to Bishop Potter for ordination by the standing committee of the New York diocese appear the names of Professor Charles A. Briggs, who created so much stir in Presbyterian circles, and Edward Robinson, professor of Biblical theology at the Union Theological Seminary, who has recently been received into the communion of the Episcopal church by the Bishop of New York. Having fulfilled all of the conditions preliminary thereto, Dr. Briggs entered his name with the authorities of the diocese as a formal applicant for ordination to the order of deacon. The standing committee passed favorably upon his application, and recommended to the Bishop that the applicant be received into the orders of the church.

A special from Washington says: When the men of the regular and volunteer armies go into action they will wear around their necks little tags of aluminum, by which they may be identified if found later on the field of battle. In the last war it was often impossible to properly identify dead soldiers, and bodies were buried in graves marked "Unidentified." The War Department has prepared this system of identification, and it has been decided that on each man on the muster rolls, with the letter of his company, his battery or troop and his regiment. These tags will be sent to the troops in the South when it is evident a fight is on hand. In the Civil War the officers of some regiments had little silver shields inscribed with the wearer's name, rank and regiment.

Responding to a resolution of inquiry in regard to the enforcement of the liquor law in Alaska, Secretary Gage sent a statement to the Senate, in which he says that notwithstanding the efforts of the department, it is a fact that the law is openly violated. It has, he says, been reported to the department that forty saloons do open business in Juneau, a town of less than 4000 inhabitants, while in Sitka, which contains less than 1000 white inhabitants, there are twelve open saloons. "The universal public sentiment in the Territory," says the secretary, "is bitterly opposed to the enforcement of the liquor law, and the efforts of the officers are met with intimidation, threats, violence and attempts at bribery." The report closes with this statement that it is impossible to enforce the present law against the existing public sentiment.

The New York Journal of Commerce says: In spite of reports that frost, drought and usual hot weather have virtually ruined California crops, the trade here seems to be skeptical and is making no provision for the future in case the accounts should prove to be true. Speculative interest is absolutely wanting, such business as is reported being based upon immediate or probable early wants of consumption. In other words, the handlers of California dried or canned fruits here seem to believe as a result of past experience that the reports of damage to the California fruit crops have been considerably exaggerated. Spot supplies of dried apricots have been cleaned up, and for this reason reports that the coming crop will be short have had more influence that have had similar reports concerning other fruits.

Numerous letters having been received at the Postoffice Department containing inquiries from postal employees as to the conditions upon which they could go to the front in the event of hostilities, Postmaster-General Gage has issued the following: "Ordered, that in the event of a call upon any regular militia organization to enter the military service of the United States, such officers, clerks, letter-carriers or other employees of the Postoffice Department or postoffices or the railway mail service who may be members of such organizations or who may enlist in the military or naval service of the United States, will upon application be granted (as far as possible without serious impairment to the postal service) leaves of absence without pay, their return and to be filled during their absence in the military or naval service by such temporary appointments or details as may be practical."

A decision has been rendered in the United States Supreme Court in the Lucile Gas Light Company case, which has been in the court for several years, and attracted much attention. The company practically claimed a perpetual and exclusive right to light the city of St. Louis, Mo., and to make excavations in the streets of the city without permission from the Board of Public Works. The Supreme Court of the State decided against the company and the opinion which was delivered by the Chief Justice, affirmed the State court's verdict.

# FOREIGN NEWS.

A Manila cable says that Cebu has been bombarded and the town practically destroyed. The rebels got away with half a million dollars.

The Producers' and Consumers' Oil Co., Fresno, Cal., declared a dividend of 25 cents per share on 10,000 shares. The company owns six producing wells and is still prospecting.

The London Council of National Artillery Association has issued an appeal for \$3000 to enable a volunteer team to accept the invitation of the Dominion Artillery Association to compete in Canada during the coming summer.

Plans have been prepared and work will soon begin under them for additional coast defense for New York harbor. This is to be effected by building fortifications on Plum Island, which lies near the village of Sheephead Bay, in the borough of Brooklyn, and is surrounded by the waters of Jamaica Bay.

A dispatch to the London Daily News from Shanghai says: The existence of a formidable conspiracy in the imperial palace has been discovered and the lives of some of the highest people in the empire are in danger. Progressive Manchus are indignant at the virtual sale of China to Russia by the Emperor's advisers.

The Peking correspondent of the London Times says: The Russians contend that the disturbances between the Chinese and Chinese at Kinchow necessitate the immediate inclusion of Kinchow within the area leased by China to Russia. The Empress dowager has signified her intention to give an audience to Prince Henry of Prussia.

The Pester Lloyd echoes the sentiment of an Italian paper that "Europe is likely to make its voice heard in the interest of justice at the close of the war, containing itself meanwhile with strict neutrality." The idea that there would be any probability of an attempt to treat the United States like Japan was treated after the recent war with China is generally ridiculed by sensible men.

Details of the conflict between the Russians and Chinese at Kinchow tend to show the disturbance was due to an attempt made by the Russian commander to take possession of the town. He tried to persuade the Chinese General that Kinchow belonged to Russia by virtue of the recent agreement arrived at between China and Russia regarding the cession of Port Arthur and Talien Wan. The Russian commander demanded the evacuation of the place within twenty-four hours, the Chinese refused to leave, and the matter was eventually referred to Peking and St. Petersburg.

Senator Sagasta, the Spanish Premier, is quoted in a special dispatch from Madrid as saying that the reference to the destruction of the Maine having been caused through Spanish agency: "This infamous calumny merits the reprobation of the whole world. All the nations know the true cause of the disaster and many officials of America know it. For the Americans to base a plea of intervention upon a heartless calumny of this character is to rebel against reason and justice. For this reason it is impossible for us to refrain from protesting formally to the powers against this imputation."

Advices from Porto Rico are still excited over the elections, which resulted in a Liberal majority of twenty-five. The Governor has issued a proclamation against disorder. Four newspapers charge fraud in the elections. One hundred and fifty persons throughout the island have been arrested. Three persons were killed and twenty-six wounded in riots in Cayey and elsewhere. Senator Ramon has gone to Spain to represent the Liberal cause in the Cortes. The people are aggrieved by the probability of rebellion. If military authority was restricted and more scope given to autonomy internal peace would be assured.

Captain-General Blanco has issued instructions to the chiefs of various corps of the army relative to the edict suspending hostilities and directing them to cause the same to be communicated to the enemy. Troops will suspend hostilities, maintaining their present positions without any offensive movement, but will still continue to guard convoys. In case the enemy assumes the offensive they will attack vigorously. If the rebels send in flags of truce they will be received. Commanders of troops will enter into negotiations with the chief of the enemy to fix conditions which will provisionally decide the terms of the suspension of hostilities. The neutral zone to be agreed upon shall be of two kilometers. Everything is to be referred to the general of the division. Captain-General Blanco will reserve his definite approbation to the terms granted.

The London Times prints a letter from Sir George Baden-Powell, M. P., asking why Great Britain should not plainly declare that she would not allow the declaration of Paris to be treated as private if they touched British ships, and in any case would be excluded from British ports. The Times, commenting on the letter, says: "We can see no reason why the powers which signed the declaration of Paris should not join in this assertion of policy now recognized by the civilized world for forty years. In any case, our interests are so vast that we have a right to act for ourselves. There is no reason to believe that the United States would resist the assertion of these principles, and Spain can hardly refuse to submit to rules to which she voluntarily submitted during the war with France."

To Kill Tent Caterpillars. Strong soap suds will do the work every time. To apply them take a large tea coffee pot and fill with the destroying liquid. A few drops turned from the nose of the coffee pot are as effective as half a pint slopped out of a pail or dipper. On very large trees, of course, this method is impracticable, but on trees which can be reached by a light ladder this coffee pot method works well.

There are nine hundred men employed at the Corral Hollow coal mines, Alameda county, Cal.

# FACTS FOR FARMERS.

Helpful Suggestions For the Agriculturists.

### HINTS THAT ARE INTERESTING.

Some Good Advice for the Harvester—A Budget of Knowledge That May Prove Beneficial.

Of Interest to Orchardists.

Mac J. Crow, for years associated in the management of a leading California nursery and orchard at Napa, Cal., who has recently taken up his residence in Pike county, Mo., says: "The San Jose scale is evidently thoroughly established in numerous localities east of the Rocky Mountains. Orchardists should accept the fact, quit talking about legislation, and turn their attention to prevention or cure, as the case may be, in their individual orchards. Some are making a mountain of a mole hill, and seem to overlook entirely the fact that this scale problem was solved in California some six or eight years ago, and is to require much less attention than some fungous diseases which are so numerous throughout the Eastern and Middle States. It is far easier to combat the San Jose scale than the codling moth, scab, blight or borers; the former can be kept thoroughly in check with less work and expense than any one of the latter. This is an indisputable fact, a fact thoroughly demonstrated in the California orchards. It is unnecessary to dig and burn a badly infested tree, as some of the wise ones often say. Three thorough sprayings with lime, sulphur and salt, or the resin washes, properly applied at the right time, will clean any tree, no matter how many scale are on it; then one spraying a year is sufficient. Of course, if the scales have been on so long as to almost kill the tree, then a new one had better be planted."

"It sounds rather ridiculous to hear such an uproar about an insect that, as such, is not dangerous or troublesome before, is less dangerous or troublesome than many of the insects which orchardists are fighting and saying nothing about. The numbers of curculio, codling moth and several others can only be diminished in a degree, and the damage resulting from their depredations in proportion; but the scale can easily be rendered perfectly harmless."

Utilizing Lemons.

Owing to the low prices that have recently prevailed for lemons many growers are turning their attention to the utilizing of the fruit—at least the lower grades—in some other manner. Reference has already been made in this department to the citric-acid factory at North Ontario, which enterprise was started last year. The last heard about this venture was that the proprietors were waiting for some new machinery from the East. The Ottawa Press announces that the entire citric-acid factory at National City is now ready for the machinery, which has been ordered and daily expected to arrive. The capacity of the plant when fully equipped is expected to be sufficient to use every lemon raised in the district, with no fear of overstocking it. The factory will start up with a capacity of ten tons per day, and the company has a large stock of lemons on hand to begin with. The price to be paid for culls will be about \$5 a ton. Many tons of lemons are now rotting for the want of utilization, and several carloads shipped from the northern part of the county destined for the factory have been dumped into the bay.

G. D. Eastman of Fallbrook is constructing a plant for the manufacture of citric acid, on a small scale, and expects soon to be able to use the cull lemons that now go to waste.

The Pepper Tree.

Next to the eucalyptus, no tree has been so generally introduced in Southern California for shade purposes as the graceful pepper, which is seen throughout the length and breadth of the seven southern counties. In city and country places alike. The pepper tree, so-called, has no real congeniality to the real pepper plant, but is a member of the Anacard family, and is known botanically as Schinus molle. The latter epithet is said to represent the Peruvian name of the plant. It is said that the tree originally came from Peru, but is now quite generally distributed over Central and South America, Mexico and Southern California. It does equally well on the table lands in the droughty sections and along irrigation ditches, where it often receives an excess of water. Shortly after the conquest of Peru, the seeds of this tree were sent to Mexico by the Viceroy of Peru, Antonio Mendoza, and it is said to be the only tree that prospers on the shore of Lake Texacooco.

A fact which few people in this section are acquainted with, is that the leaves are useful for their medicinal properties, and when chewed will cure any affection of the gums or an ulcerated sore mouth. From the fruit can be made a medicine that is said to be superior for bronchial affections. An extract is also made from the fruit that is said to be better than cubes for purging the blood of all impurities. The trunk and limbs exude a resinous substance that is a splendid remedy for dissolving catarrh of the eye, and can be made into salve that is very healing to all kinds of wounds.

Agriculture in the Yukon. The great interest in the gold districts of the northwest has caused the director of experiment farms at Ottawa, Canada, to make extensive inquiries as to the possibilities of agriculture in the Yukon district. Information of course is meager. From records kept, it is found that in August, 1895, the thermometer went below 32 degrees five times and below 40 times. In September, '95, it fell below 32 eighteen times and below 40 twenty-nine times. In June, 1896, it was four times at and below 32 and in July the temperature ranged from 40 to 70, being 81 at one time. With these conditions, it can be easily seen that the possibilities of growing crops is quite small.

With comparatively low temperature

all through the summer and frequent frosts during the early part of June and often before the end of September, very little can be done in the way of agriculture. Best success is likely to be had along the margins of rivers and elsewhere. There are a few garden products, such as radishes, lettuce, early varieties of cabbage and turnips, which mature in a very short period and can be grown in this district fairly well. These do not grow large but attain sufficient maturity to make them fit for use. To this list may probably be added spinach, early varieties of green peas, early beets and carrots and possibly some kinds of onions. Rhubarb is worthy of trial. Potatoes have been grown in several localities, but unless planted in a suitably sheltered spot, they will need some special protection against frost in August.

In several instances, a small patch has been preserved by covering with heavy ticking at night when frost was threatened. Oats and barley have been tried, but no crop has ever been known to mature. They grow sufficiently, however, to make excellent forage, but the seed would have to be brought in every year. In 1896, a crop of wheat sown at Cudahy, near the Alaska line, developed it before any kernels were formed. For the attempted production of fodder for cattle, the following early maturing cereals are recommended: Oats: Prinz Luise, White Wonder, Bonanza, Welcome; Barley: Success Odessa, Rennie's Improved; Spring wheat: Ladoga, Black Sea, Colorado, Preston. Spring rye will prove valuable in this locality. Native grasses are said to be very scarce and make inferior fodder. Hence, it might be advisable to try the variety of millet known as Hungarian grass. It matures early and can be cut as soon as it blooms. Awnless broom is a very hardy species of grass which has been grown successfully in the northwest territories and it might be tried. For vegetables, select the very earliest kinds.

Warning Water For Stock.

For some time during the winter I noticed that during a cold spell my cows would gain slightly in the flow of milk, while during a warm spell they would shrink a little. As this was just contrary to my expectations, I studied over the matter considerably, and believe I have found the cause. It has been my practice to use the tank heater only to thaw the ice in the tank, hence on warm days I have no fire to melt the ice would often find the water warm. We have been trying to bring about as nearly as possible the same conditions that prevail with regard to our cows in June. We make our barn warmer, feed the succulent ensilage or roots, balancing the ration with early cut grass and the concentrated foods. But I forgot (and I wonder if I am alone in this) that water, though it may be free from ice, is not as warm by many degrees in winter as in summer. Did you ever notice how in summer the cows drink as though they enjoyed it? Did you ever see them drink from a cold spring if there was a stream or brook of warm water near? If they do not like cold water in summer, how much less would they enjoy it in winter. My aim now is to make the water just warm enough so the cattle will at all times drink with the same apparent ease. The factory will start up with a capacity of ten tons per day, and the company has a large stock of lemons on hand to begin with. The price to be paid for culls will be about \$5 a ton. Many tons of lemons are now rotting for the want of utilization, and several carloads shipped from the northern part of the county destined for the factory have been dumped into the bay.

Two Riverside men, Benjamin B. and James E. Wright, have invented and patented a machine especially adapted to thoroughly clean the rinds of oranges, lemons, etc., without in the slightest degree injuring such fruit. The fruit is fed into the machine at one end and delivered at the opposite end in a thoroughly cleaned condition. The machine is described as follows in the Scientific American:

"The fruit is first placed in a water trough at one end of the machine, to loosen any foreign adhering matter, and is then passed down the feed trough beneath the brushes of a wheel revolved by a crank-handle, the lower portion of the wheel passing through a rining tank. In this tank is a series of segmentally arranged brushes, between which and the brushes on the periphery of the wheel the fruit is passed. The brushes on the periphery of the wheel are supported by springs, whereby their pressure upon the fruit may be a yielding and flexible one, not liable to injure the rinds, and the fruit is passed out through a delivery spout at the opposite end of the machine."

Using Spade or Shovel.

A simple device that any blacksmith can make at small cost as an attachment to spade or shovel, is a foot piece, fastened by a screw or bolt, and clamped to the handle of spade or shovel. This foot piece should be 1 1/2 inches at one end to 1 3/4 inches at the other, and about 4 inches long. By using this device one can spade with rubber boots on as well as with leather, and does not tire the foot, as does the bare foot. Spades usually have. This can be made to fasten at any place on the handle. By loosening it can be shoved up and down as desired.

After Dinner Oratory.

Although "forensic oratory" is fast becoming a tradition, although college debating at its best calls out but perfunctory interest from the body of students, although what is left of congressional eloquence is worth, speaking comparatively, but a passing mention in the press, although the press is supplanting the oration and is itself tolerated as a perhaps necessary harm, yet there probably never was a time when the "after dinner orator" flourished as he does today. "Epochs are signalized by their orators," somewhere remarks Kenelm Chillingly, the nineteenth century philosopher, and our own is signalized by the bad digestion which waits on oratory as a matter of course.

It is typical of the American way of doing things—just as we play our national game by crowding around a "diamond" to watch professionals play it for us—that at our dinners we have our talking done for us, if not by professionals, at least by men who make a profession of it. These are the men who, as one of their number wittily described it, sit to be found regularly each dinner reason traveling "the postprandial circuit." They are popular, recognized purveyors of this kind of oratory, as distinctly marked as a class as are clergymen or actors.—Outlook.

# THE NAVY TO BE BUSY.

How United States War Vessels Will Operate.

### PLANS FOR FLEET COMMANDERS.

Deprived of Naval Guns the Spanish Land Forces Could Not Prevent Occupation by Our Military.

New York.—The World's Washington special says: Naval plans are made and orders are in the hands of the fleet commanders. The absence of Spanish war ships of size about the Island of Cuba eliminate the possibility of a naval battle at the onset of war with Spain, even if ten days more elapse before the strike is made.

There will be plenty of work for the Navy. As nearly as can be learned, the plan is to move the Key West fleet to Havana. If the demand for a peaceful yielding be refused, the American battleships will direct their fire against the forts and the shore batteries, while the smaller craft destroy connections with submarine mines.

Some say the harbor and shore lines can be cleared of everything offensive within half a day. Others are not confident. The Spanish land force cannot cope with the naval force that will be brought against them after the fortifications have been rendered useless. Havana, St. Juan de los Rios, the mercy of our war ships should be occupied readily by our military forces.

What is to be done at Havana must also be done at all fortified ports about the island of Cuba. A squadron would be dispatched to Porto Rico to occupy that harbor and prevent Spanish war ships from approaching there. There are no Spanish war ships there except a few small gunboats built for use in Cuban waters and carrying only small guns.

While these two squadrons are paying their attention to the West Indies the Asiatic squadrons, under Commodore Dewey, will operate against the Philippines. There a naval conflict might ensue, as a Spanish fleet of some size, but of comparatively small strength, is stationed there. Our Asiatic squadron is composed of the cruisers Olympia, Baltimore, Raleigh, Boston, Concord, Monocacy, gunboat Petrel and the auxiliary cruiser Zafiro. This fleet has just been fully supplied with ammunition and stores. Difficulty in capturing the Spanish fleet at the Philippines is not apprehended.

### ALABAMA TO BE LAUNCHED IN MAY.

She is One of Three Battleships Ordered About a Year and a Half Ago.

Philadelphia.—It has been learned here that May 18th has been fixed as the date for the launching of the United States battleship Alabama, in course of construction at Cramps' ship yard. Miss Morgan, daughter of United States Senator Morgan, will, it is stated, christen the ship named in honor of her native State. The Alabama will be the first in the water of the three big battleships contracted for in October, 1896. The other two, the Wisconsin and Illinois, are being built respectively at San Francisco and Newport News. All three are identically alike.

The Alabama is eight feet longer than the large battleship Iowa, completed by the Cramps last year. She is No. 8 in the naval register and is technically known as a first-class sea-going battleship. Her length on load water line is 288 feet, extreme breadth 28 feet 6 inches and displacement at the draught 11,225 tons. Her guaranteed speed is to be sixteen knots an hour.

The armament will be four 13-inch breech-loading rifles mounted in pairs in two elliptical turrets on the middle line, one forward and one aft of the superstructure, fourteen 6-inch rapid-fire breech-loading rifles, mounted on gunwales, and a secondary battery of sixteen 6-pounders and four 1-pounder rapid-fire guns together with one Gatling and one field gun. She will also have four torpedo tubes. The side armor of the Alabama is to be sixteen and one-half inches thick at the top of the belt, tapering to nine and one half inches at the bottom. In the turrets the portholes plate will be seventeen inches thick and other plates fifteen inches. Inside of this will rise a protective deck with armor four inches thick on the slopes aft, three inches forward and two and three-quarters on the flat top.

No Relief Extended.

Detroit (Mich.)—Stanley W. Turner of the Government Alaskan Relief expedition, who has just returned to this city, said that when the expedition arrived at Oyma they found two-thirds of the population gone elsewhere, and accordingly the expedition disbanded, turning over the supplies to the army post there. He said: "I expect the world will be surprised when it knows the amount of gold that will be brought out of the Klondike this year. In my opinion, the first and second shipments that will come out by way of St. Michael will aggregate from \$7,000,000 to \$30,000,000."

Turner believes the appropriation of \$200,000 for relieving the Klondike miners has hardly been warranted by the results accomplished, as relief has so far been extended to no one in Alaska.

### GERMANY WANTS FULL OWNERSHIP OF SAMOA.